Hi no Matoi

Bliss & Ochibichan

Volume 1 Chapter 1

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Information

Edo (江戸) - During Tokugawa Shogunate (or Bakufu). Edo was Tokugawa Shogun's headquarters, which was the center of power. Edo is the former name for Tokyo, and seeing how closely built those buildings are now, they were built closely together back then too.

The worst part of the houses during the Edo period was that most of them are made of wood, straw, and bamboo, which are highly flammable materials. Several great fires grazed Edo, and the shogun's solution was the Hikeshi. Tokugawa Yoshimune ordered Ooka Echizen no Kami to come up with a system of organisation and one of the "departments" he came up with is the "Machibikeshi" (町火消し), meaning street fire stoppers or fighters.

Hikeshi (火消し) – Fire Brigade during the Edo period. They usually come from lower classes and are looked down upon by the samurai and merchant classes. How do they usually fight fire? One of the common ways of doing it is by simply demolishing the house next to the house on fire.

Matoi (纏) - An object used in Edo period Japan by firemen (Hikeshi) to notify people of a fire nearby or within a building. It's put on the nearby roof of the burning building by the matoi holder (纏持, matoi mochi). Each different group of firemen in the Edo period had their own matoi to identify themselves.

緋の纏【ひのまとい】

乾みく Miku Inui

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時は江戸――
舞台は天下泰平と謳われた徳川の治世。
武家諸法度の一項目に何の因果か
江戸を消四十八回の大火に放り込まれる心に
侍の心に火消の気概、ここに死の火消綺譚開幕！

五番

Concentrate here! Idiot!
Remembering the geography of Edo (getting scolded)
stop looking around!
There's a time we could climb the fence
Other than that he takes part time jobs too
After turning over there
Just like this he reports on Isshin's well-being and whereabouts as it is his responsibility (
right now Wako's doing blah blah blah, that blah blah blah at blah blah blah
Roger
What does Seiichirou usually do when he's away from Isshin...
Protecting his master in the shadow like this (getting scolded)
EW?
Stop! stop it! work!
smack
Wako-kun! Irisuke!
glare
(Amidst the chaos in Chapter 31)
Wah!
And there is a time...
glare
PA!
IF YOU KEEP THIS UP, HE WON'T BECOME INDEPENDENT!
AREN'T YOU BEING OVER PROTECTIVE?!
Pissed
Wah! From there?!
Do you have a death wish?
Hey! Pastar-!! Anyway
You'll see him everywhere
It hurts!
In the middle of punishment deals to him for stealing his cleaning work and getting distracted by butterflies.
Then.
Some-thing like this happens too.
Discussion
Mm
Stop pamper-ing him!
Do you leave him in the care of Kurgum?
Come
:

But,
WHAT'S WITH THIS GUY?! WHY IS HE SLEEPING AT A PLACE LIKE THIS?!
WAH!
Zzz
Zzz
Purr
I almost stepped on him
SOMETHING LIKE THAT
Ah!
nag nag nag nag
Can't be helped I'll go get some water and for it to cool down next time.
And the other day,
This man sure is scolding me.
Eye
The other day
Hmm... now what happened to him? Is he dead? I'll suck
Well this guy fell and cried and pouted
That tires at Gochou! Is there some thing wrong with his head?
Sneeze
I can't help
Cough
What happens if you catch a cold?
Cough
Cough
Well now, time for work!
IT'LL BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO BE INDEPENDENT NOW
Or I'll steam!
Take it off now!
You! Over here now! There are mud stains on you!
There's something that the squad's hiding from the public.
I'm sure Kotarou will be picked on
Ah I'll give you another set of clothes to wear so you won't get cold
Kotarou's acting just like a mother hen...

乾みく
緋の纏
【ひのまとい】
壱

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I definitely saw it...
Waah...
Wah
CHI-CHIJIE*...
ANIJIE*...
That deafeningly roaring noise, and madly scorching heat.
*Polite form for brother
*Polite form for father
Within my faint consciousness...
A straight scarlet "path"...
Appeared before me...

Mountain Cherry in a Ring
第壱話 丸に山桜

sta
!!
rtle
-SAMA
WAKAGIMI-SAMA?!
YOU'RE VERY TIRED, RIGHT?
PLEASE ENDURE THIS FOR A WHILE MORE
I PRESUME THE RAIN YESTERDAY IS AFFECTING YOUR BODY ON OUR JOURNEY ON THE MOUNTAIN PATH.
Ah
That scarlet daydream again...
EVEN SO,
AFTER GOING DOWN THE SLOPE ON THE MOUNTAIN PATH TO THE MAIN ROAD, WE HAVE TO GO THROUGH CHECK POINTS.
WE'LL BE REACHING THE DESTINATION SHORTLY

OUR DESTINATION...
EDO...

NOW THEN,
I'LL GO SCOUT AROUND THE GEOGRAPHY SO I CAN CONTACT THE LEADERS
WAKAGIMI, PLEASE WAIT FOR ME HERE PATIENTLY
OKAY.
.....

YOUR FACE DOESN'T LOOK TOO GOOD ARE YOU HURT ANYWHERE?
EH?
NO!
LETS GO TO THE REST HUT AND
EH!
WAIT A MINUTE, SEIICHI-ROU!
KNOWING THAT YOU'RE TIRED AND LETTING YOU WAIT HERE IS DISRESPECT-ING YOU.
AND "THAT"! WE AGREED ONCE WE ENTERED EDO, I'LL BE THE SERVANT AND YOU ARE THE "WAKA-SAMA"" RIGHT?
I'M FINE!
BUT WAKA
*Young lord
URGH!
WAIT...
STOP IT..!
I UNCON-SCIOUSLY DID IT AGAIN!
TH...THEN, IN CASE OF EMERGENCY PLEASE USE THIS COIN POUCH!
HEAVY!
Jingle
WELL, I'LL BE HEAD-ING OFF NOW!
Hey!

alone
NOW, I'M ALL ALONE
ANY-WAY,
SO THIS IS HOW EDO'S STREETS LOOK LIKE
Please help me out there
Sure.
There are so many people here bustling around the place, voices of people talking here and there!!
It feels like I'm being sucked into a whirlpool formed by humans.
I'M FEELING KIND OF SLUG-GISH...
I guess it can't be helped.
There were days we had to travel in the night and on some days we even had to start our journey as the sun rose on the dangerous paths deep within the mountains
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I GOT TO REST MY LEGS
HEY BOY

AH! I'M SO PISSED!
KOTA-ROU-SAN ARE YOU STILL MAD?
OF COURSE! THAT BASTARD KUSOKICHI* TOOK MONEY OUT OF MY POUCH AGAIN!
IT'S JUST 5 ORㅇMON* RIGHT?
PLEASE BEHAVE YOURSELF.
ARE YOU ALONE?
.....
YEA?

*He's calling Komakichi names by replacing Koma with Kuso, which means shishit.

*Currency of the time period.

LETS BE ANGRY TOGETHER! THE SAME THING HAPPENED TO YOU YESTERDAY RIGHT?!
You're too good for a person!
WELL, IF KOMAKICHI CAN BE FULL WITH THAT, I DON'T MIND.
GINJI-SAN!
Too cool.
HUH?
Sriu
Gin-jr sa-n!
HM?
chatter chatter
HEY YOU TWO WHAT'S HAPPENING OVER THERE?
Hm?
DIDN'T I TELL YOU THIS ALREADY?
I'LL RETURN DOUBLE THE MONEY TO YOU LATER

SO PLEASE HELP ME?
JUST GIVE US SOME FROM THE POUCH?
I RE-FUSE!
THE MONEY I HAVE WAS GIVEN TO ME BY MY MASTER, I CAN'T SIMPLY GIVE IT AWAY LIKE THAT.
WHY DON'T YOU JUST FIND A JOB INSTEAD..?
BRAT!
DON'T ACT SO ARRO-GANT!
SFX: SLAM.
!?
I DON'T KNOW WHICH VILLAGE YOU CAME FROM, BUT EDO'S SELLING POINT IS GIVING AWAY MONEY
Shuu Shu
cough
TCH...
LET ME GIVE YOU A WEL-COMING PRE-SENT.
YOU SHOULD FOLLOW THE CUSTOMS HERE...
PAH!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, IDIOT.

sfx: kick
IF IT'S A FIGHT YOU WANT, THEN I, KOTAROU FROM "KU-GUMI"" AM HAPPY TO OBLIGE YOU!
"KU-GUMI"?!"
"Ku_gumi — Ku_umi"
YOU'RE SO OLD ALREADY, STOP ASKING FOR POCKET MONEY FROM BRATS!
fall
AH! ANIKI"!
"Aniki" — brother
Ah

I'LL REMEMBER THIS, FUCKING IDIOT!
THAT SHOULD BE MY LINE, SALDIE!
Such a tumultuous sea*
WELL...
I think Edo has excited me little
too much.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? HURT ANYWHERE?
!

*Hahe form for mother

I finally understood the howling wind back at my hometown
CHICHIUE! CHICHIUE!
COME LOOK AT THIS!
SAKURA!
A WARRIOR'S FLOWER
DO YOU KNOW WHY THE FLOWER IS LABELED AS SUCH?
THEN,
YES!
JUST LIKE THE BRAVE AND BEAUTIFUL FALLING PETALS OF THE SAKURA AT ITS END, A WARRIOR SHOULD BE LIKE THAT TOO.
WHAT DOES THE "BRAVE AND BEAUTIFUL FALLING PETALS" REFER TO?

THE WORLD EXISTS FOR ITS PEOPLE.
FOR A WARRIOR, ONE MUST LOYALLY SERVE HIS LORD, MAINTAIN THE PEACE OF THE WORLD AS ITS CORE FOUNDATION AND DEVOTE HIMSELF TO HIS STUDIES
AND THEN ...
"PEOPLE" DOES NOT REFER TO THE RULERS, BUT TO THE COMMON FOLK.
WHEN A WARRIOR DIES,
IT'S NOT TO LEAVE HIS LEGACY,
BUT, TO LIVE LIFE HONOURABLY AND SERVE THE WORLD.
THAT IS THE ONLY TIME HE'S ALLOWED TO DO IT.
DO NOT BE MISLED. SEE THE TRUTH.
BLOSSOM WITH COURAGE, SCATTER WITH JUSTICE.
STAY BEAUTIFUL...

sh
ock
Chi-chi...!
.....
.....
thump
NO...
IT'S JUST A DREAM...
spring
Right... I was supposed to be on the streets.
WHERE AM I?
SINCE WHEN DID I
touch

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?!
WHAT?!
"THIS" TOO...
WHO
MY CLOTHES AND COIN POUCH...
WHY ARE YOU SO FREAKING RUDE?!
YOU'RE TOO ARROGANT!
I'm a samurai!
*Type of a potato. He's referring to him as bachelor samurai.
...OH, WHATEVER! I KNOW MY SERVANT'S CURRENTLY STAYING HERE!
SO, WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?!
We're in the same boat!
JUST SPILL IT ALREADY!
SEIICHIROU... SAMA?!
EH?
AH!
WAH!
Isshin ... dono!

*Roushi = A landless samurai or wandering samurai.

IT'S COMMON COURTESY TO HELP OUT IN A SITUATION LIKE THAT.
WAIT A MINUTE.
I AM FOREVER GRATEFUL...
FOR THE HELP YOU'VE EXTENDED DURING THE TIME OF CRISIS.

AH
AN IT'S FINE
WE'RE REALLY SORRY THAT YOU HAD TO SEARCH AROUND THE CITY LOOKING FOR HIM...
BUT YOUR SERVANT WAS BEING HARASSED BY SOME UNCOUTH YOUTHS. SO WE DECIDED TO BRING HIM HERE INSTEAD
USUALLY WE'LL LEAVE HIM AT THE JISHINBAN THOUGH.
"Jishinban"... A place where the police during Edo period works.

OUR EYES MET!
Whoosh
He'll kick me!
?
Oh, that face. He's the one who saved me back there.
WHEN HE'S ALL STILL AND SILENT LIKE THAT HE LOOKS LIKE AN ACTOR ANY WAY.
!!
FORGIVE ME FOR ASKING THIS BUT WHO ARE YOU ?
IS THIS WHERE YOU LIVE?
AH, THIS PLACE ..
THEY BELONG TO MY UNIT.
WE'RE EDO'S HIKESHI 48TH SQUAD, OOSANGUMI FIFTH UNIT!
"KU-GUMI"
thump
BUT...
WHEN THERE AREN'T ANY FIRES GOING ON, WE'RE USUALLY WORKING AS CARPENTERS TO REPAIR THE CITY.
thump
What's this...?
WE'RE REALLY HOT-BLOODED THOUGH...
Something's not adding right...

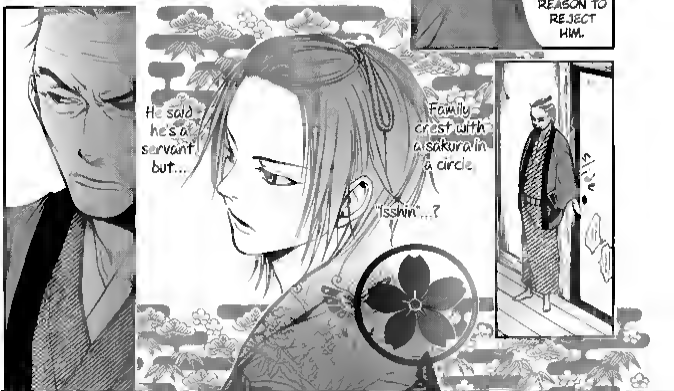
slide
I'M THE OWNER, KURUMA
That voice!
From where...?
EVEN THOUGH IT'S A HOUSE IT'S JUST PACKED WITH YOUNGSTERS FREE-LOADING HERE
KASHIRA*!
*kashira = boss
PLEASE FORGIVE MY RUDENESS BUT THERE IS A MATTER I LIKE TO BEG OF YOU
SORRY FOR CHANGING THE TOPIC WHAT HAPPENED?
YES
blush
I don't feel right about this now. Maybe I'm just overthinking this
WHEN DID YOU GET BACK?
SINCE YOU'RE WITH A GUEST RIGHT NOW, I'LL COME BACK LATER.

May I leave my servant, Isshin
at your place?
...Eh...!...?
WHAT?!
I WAS DISOWNED BY MY PARENTS DUE TO BLOOD-SHED I'VE CAUSED IN A DOJO.
"YO-SHIN"?
YOU IMO!
PLEASE TRY TO UNDER-STAND MY PAIN...
WHAT ARE YOU BLABBING YOU KAPPA FACE!
the bow
I'M EMBAR-RASSED TO SAY THIS BUT I...
Monkey?!
YOUR FACE IS RUDE ENOUGH ALREADY!
HANDS OFF ME STUPID MON-KEY!
HORSE FACE!

?!
I UNDER-STAND.

Imo!
Hey
TALK TO ORINOSUKE ABOUT THE ROOMS
YES.
GINJI!
LET THE SAMURAI REST HERE FOR TODAY TOO,

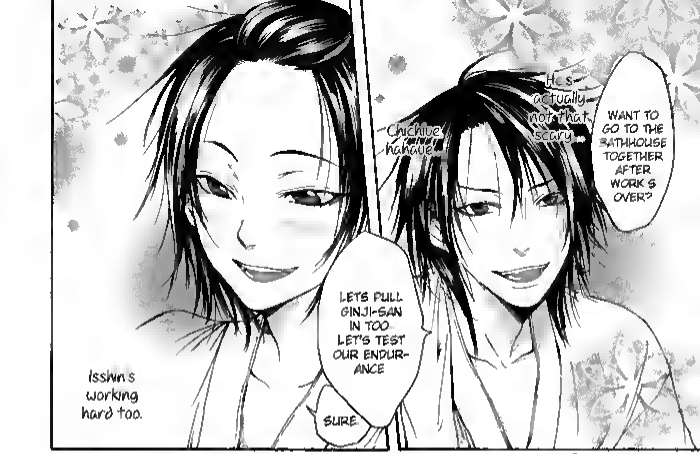
KASHI-RA?!
ANYWAY, SINCE HE HAS RUN OUT OF OPTIONS, WE DON'T HAVE ANY REASON TO REJECT HIM.


He said he's a servant but...
Family crest with a sakura in a circle.
Isshin...?
Hm?

MeeeW
SHINO!
Scratch
SHINO? ARE YOU THERE?
OH
YES I'M OVER HERE
THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED YOUR ASSIS-TANCE WITH
Caw Caw
sfx: gloom
HEY
I'm only in Edo for a day and I'm already moving all alone...
What should I do now
I CAN'T SEEM TO SLEEP
WAIT TO BE PREVIOUS
RIGHT
FIRST THING TO DO IS TO SAY MY THANKS FOR YES-TERDAY
bump
HM, WHAT WAS HIS NAME AGAIN ?

Here!
Yawn~
YOU'RE UP EARLY... AH, SO SLEEPY...
cough cough
scratch
He's...
Hey!
SPIN
shock
OUCH!
Chp
stiff
THAT IMO SAMURAI'S NOT HERE?
AH! YES!
HE LEFT EARLY THIS MORNING!
fidget
I HAVE TO SAY IT...
OH...
MM.
AH.
BR.
ABOUT
UM
drip
flinch
PFF.
?!
startle
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR SAVING MY LIFE YESTERDAY!

YOU'RE REALLY HONEST
ISSHIN RIGHT?
TO HAVE SUCH A CRUEL MASTER, TRY YOUR BEST OKAY?
Pat
...ERM...
HM?
OH, ME? I'M KOTAROU.
KOTAROU-DONO, ARE YOU ALWAYS LIKE THIS IN THE MORNING?
What's this...? This person's mouth is bad but...
WELL, THE JOB AS A CARPENTER STARTS AT 6:30.
AH
sit


Issun's working hard too.
LET'S PULL GINJI-SAN IN TOO. LET'S TEST OUR ENDURANCE
SURE.
Chichiue (Father) hahaha
He's actually not that scary.
WANT TO GO TO THE BATHHOUSE TOGETHER AFTER WORK IS OVER?

KOTAROU-DONO?!
bam
ring
ring
?
WHAT'S THAT SOUND?
IT'S STILL SO EARLY
Tsk

KOTA-ROU!
YES!
WHAT?
FIRE?
THERE'S FIRE COMING FROM DENMA CHOU*. FOLLOW THE ORDERS FROM MATOI-BAN*
UNIT LEADER CAN'T MAKE IT TODAY. HURRY UP AND GO NOW!
?!
WHAT ABOUT SHINO?
*Chou - Street
*Matoi Ban - Group of firefighters who wear coats & stand on the top of ladder trucks
FIRE?!
Dash
SORRY ABOUT THIS, ISSHIN. SEE YOU LATER.
YES.
HEY BOY, ARE YOU THERE?
I NEED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT SOMETHING...
*Sign - Current

burn
crackle
knock
hara hara
hara
LOOK AT WHERE YOU'RE GOING, IDIOT!
SOR-RY!
THERE'S TOO MANY PEOPLE HERE
I'M GET-TING LOST HERE
!
ONLOOK-ERS!
THANK GOD.
I'VE AR-RIVED.
sss swish
HEY YOU!
STOP RIGHT THERE! STOP!

WHAT'S THIS? IF YOU'RE HERE TO SEE THE FIRE, PLEASE GO BACK NOW.
EH ...?
NO, I'M NOT HERE TO SEE THE FIRE.
THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE FORGOTTEN THERE...
SOMETHING YOU'VE FORGOTTEN..
HEY! WHO TOUCHED ME JUST NOW!
SO, WHAT DID YOU FORGET EH?
Not here?
Suddenly
OUCH!
EH? SEIICHIROU?!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "EH"?!
WHAT WERE YOU THINKING? ARGUING WITH AN OFFICER? DO YOU KNOW THE CONSEQUENCES?!
EH? BUT, WHAT ABOUT YOU?
WHEN I WAS ON MY WAY, THE FIRE SUDDENLY STARTED...
THE "HIKESHI" WHO'S HOLDING THE "MATOI" IS SURPRISINGLY
stand
?

roar
Kotarou-dono?!
I'M NOT SURE ABOUT HIM BUT IT SEEMS "KU-GUMI" ARE DOING A GOOD JOB.
THEY ARE ABOUT TO TEAR DOWN THE HOUSE NOW.
NO, BUT SOMETHING'S HAPPENED.

HOW'S THE SITUATION...?
EH?
THERE'S A "HIKESHI" AND A LITTLE KID STUCK IN THAT FIRE
THAT "HIKESHI" WENT IN TO HELP, BUT...
sfx roar
WHY ISN'T ANYBODY HELPING TOO?!
HOW SHOULD I KNOW?!
THE ONE HOLDING THE "MATOI" CANNOT MOVE FROM HIS POSITION, THAT I UNDERSTAND.
BUT SINCE THE OTHERS ARE NOT MOVING...
dash
!
OI!
BOY!
FORGET IT! I'LL DO IT INSTEAD!
THAT MEANS THERE WEREN'T ANY ORDERS FROM THE "MATOI-SAN"...

LET ME GO!
STOP IT YOU IDIOT!
IF WE WAIT ANY LONGER THOSE TWO WILL BE BURNT TO A CRISP!
BUT THE ORDERS...
IT'S HIS OWN FAULT
roar
THAT FOOL GINJI,
HE IGNORED THE "MATOI-BAN" AND WENT FLYING STRAIGHT IN.
YOU GUYS TOO
pissed
YOU'RE ALWAYS BUTTING INTO MY UNIT'S BUSINESS SUCH THAT I'VE BEGGED THE HEAD OF SQUADS FOR A CHANCE LIKE THIS!

WHO?!
LET ME DO IT INSTEAD.
clack
WHO ARE YOU?!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING, IDIOT?! THIS IS NOT SOMETHING FOR AN AMATEUR TO DO!
IF YOU UNDERSTAND, GET THE HELL AWAY!
HEY! GO AWAY!

Id...!
sfx: roar
Is-shin!
Chichiue, I have a confession to make.
I'm a gullible person.
HOT...
I assumed I understood the meaning of them.
Those words you said to me under the falling petals of sakura.
TCH!
roar
crackle

Sfx: roar
IF YOU CAN HEAR ME, PLEASE REPLY!
ANYBODY THERE?!
All these have been constantly spiraling within my thoughts...
CAN YOU HEAR ME -
ANY-ONE!
But Chichiue...
I've finally realized it.
!
GINJI-DONO?! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
Some-what
Sfx: crash
Creak
THANK GOOD-NESS! I'LL HEL- YOU NOW!

"Do not be misled. See the truth."

"Blossom with courage, scatter with justice."

you don't want it this way right?
During that time Chichiue
Those words.
"If you cannot become an ideal warrior"
then aim to be a beautiful person"
Waaah'
THAT FIRE INCIDENT'S RESOLVED RIGHT?
Look for the truth in your "way of living".

Waaah!
THEN
THEN,
AREN'T YOU GLAD?
THE CONTENTS OF THE MESSAGE
I SEE...
YES
YOU'VE COME HERE TO GIVE ME THIS?
I THOUGHT IT'S A "KESHI-FUDA"
UM...
IT'S NOT A "KESHI-FUDA" THOUGH...
"Keshifuda." — It's a talisman with the name of the unit's name written on it, usually brought along when trying to stop Fire.
pat
BUT IT IS SOMETHING IMPORTANT NEXT TO MY LIFE.
THANK YOU.
BUT...

HEY!
DON'T YOU EVER DO SOMETHING AS DANGEROUS AS THAT AGAIN, YOU HEAR ME?!
Cough
I FEEL THE SAME TOO!
DID THE NETSUKE* FROM THAT INROU* GET BURNT?
HUH?
*Netsuke — must carryings stuck to an end of a string that's hanging from a pouch.
*Inrou — seal case, pill box, pouch.
Scratch
Scratch
AH...
THIS DOESN'T LOOK VERY COMMON THOUGH
FAMILY CREST
!
THAT
IS MY MOTHER'S FAMILY CREST
I'VE HAD IT BEFORE I STARTED THE JOURNEY...
Chi-chiue
I WAS RIGHT...

WHAT DID YOU SAY...
JUST NOW?
That brat...
I want to take back what I said before!
"HA-HALIE"?
Are you...
just a lowly servant?
I was

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Information

Hatamoto (旗本) – A samurai who's directly under the service of the Tokugawa shogunate. A hatamoto is also a higher vassal or retainer of the Tokugawa clan. Not a name of a clan.

Koku (石) – "Koku" is a Japanese unit of volume. 1 "koku" is about 278.3 litres. It was originally used to measure the quantity of rice. During the Edo period, it was used to measure the wealth of a person. Each "han" (藩) or country, before the use of province system, used "koku" to measure their wealth, the smallest "han" was 10 000 "koku" and the largest, aka "million-"koku" domain" had about 1 025 000 "koku".

Kokudaka (石高) – "Kokudaka" is a system to determine the value of land for tribute purposes during Edo period. It refers to the quality and size of the land.

Wakagimi-sama (若君様) and Waka-sama (若様) – "Wakagimi-sama" means young lord and without the "-gimi", "Waka-sama" means lord.

"YOUR MOTHER'S FAMILY CREST?"
YOU...
AREN'T YOU JUST A LOWLY SERVANT?
第弐話
おかいもの

Chapter 02: Shopping
第弐話 おかいもの

...
sfx: grab
I won't understand if you keep your mouth shut!
EXPLAIN TO ME, WHY DOES A SERVANT LIKE YOU
Ugh
YOU BAS-TARDS
HAVE A "MON" AS FINELY CRAFTED AS THIS?
Ugh

thump
...
FORGIVE ME
Lied to us, didn't you!?
sfx swing
WHY YOU LITTLE ...!

shing
IF YOU DON'T RESTRAIN YOURSELF...
THAT'S AS FAR AS YOU GO.
!
THAT ARM OF YOURS.
YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO LOSE IT RIGHT?
!
SEI-ICHI-ROU..
HEY YOU! WHAT ARE YOU DOING OVER THERE?!

I WAS WONDERING WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE, SO I CAME OVER...
IS SOMETHING WRONG?
ARE YOU GUYS FIGHTING?
Hellcase
AH!
ERM
KOTAROU-DO
You samurais are so full of shit!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, KOTA?
GINJI-SAN,
LET'S GO TO KAISHIRA*...

I THINK
WE HAVE SOMETHING TO DISCUSS ABOUT...
...What?!
WAIT...
WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?

...ANYWAY THIS PERSON HERE IS SAKURA ISSHIN-SAMA
HE'S THE SECOND SON AND LEGAL HEIR TO THE HONOURABLE SUCCESSIVE LINE OF THE HATAMOTO CLAN WITH FIVE THOUSAND KOKU IN WEALTH

So, if...
Wait just a second here!

THEN, YOU'RE ...?!
I AM WAKAGIMI'S RETAINER.

HE'S THE HATAMOTO WAKA-SAMA.

The so called "successor" problem.

THE PROBLEM AROSE WHEN MY MASTER SUDDENLY PASSED AWAY A MONTH AGO...
MY CLAN IS DIVIDED INTO TWO THE HEAD HOUSE AND THE BRANCH HOUSES
USUALLY, THE HEAD OF THE CLAN WOULD HAVE CHOSEN HIS SUCCESSOR.
BUT

WE CAME TO THIS TOWN TO HIDE OUR IDENTITY.
KURUMA-DONO
PLEASE ...!
PLEASE FORGIVE MY DISHONOUR AND FULFILL ANOTHER ONE OF MY SELFISH REQUESTS!
MAY I LEAVE MY CHARGE AT YOUR PLACE FOR A WHILE?
!
IT'S IMPORTANT THAT THE FAMILY DOESN'T LOSE ITS BLOODLINE, SO WE NEED TO FIND A SUCCESSOR BEFORE HIS LORDSHIP DECIDES TO STEP IN TO THE MATTER.
AND NOW THE INTENDED SUCCESSOR FAILED TO ASCEND LEADERSHIP OF THE CLAN.
SO I USED THIS CHANCE TO TAKE WAKAGIMI AWAY AND PREVENT PEOPLE FROM USING HIM FOR THEIR OWN PURPOSES

SFX: fwoosh
WHY YOU...!
ISN'T THAT GREAT?
WHY DON'T YOU LET HIM STAY HERE?
?!
Ah!
S.w.i.n.g
Hey! I'm back!
Ha!
GYAAAA
Ko-ko-ko-komakichi! Where did you pop out from, bastard?!
BESIDES THAT, HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN HERE?!
stung
stung
CAN'T YOU JUST LET THIS SLIDE TAROU-SAN?
WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU SPOIL MY HEARING?
CRASH

Don't be so friendly!
STOP BEING SO HYPER! GET AWAY FROM HIM!
He has really short fuse!
I JUST ARRIVED!
AH! I'M KOMAKICHI! NICE TO MEET YOU!
Whining Crying Tantrum
LISTEN TO WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING!
MEDICAL FEE PLEASE!
I HEARD FROM SOMEWHERE THAT THIS GUY SAVED GIN-NII THIS MORNING.
WHY CAN'T I?
ISN'T IT LOGICAL TO HELP SOMEONE YOU'RE INDERTED TO WITH YOUR LIFE?
I DON'T UNDERSTAND THINGS AS COMPLICATED AS THAT BUT...
I

THAT'S RIGHT
KOMA'S RIGHT
IT'S LOGICAL THAT WE HAVE TO REPAY OUR DEBT.
92
I'LL TREAT YOU AS ONE OF THE "KU-GUMI" MEMBERS, UNDERSTAND?
...
BUT YOU WON'T BE GIVEN SPECIAL TREATMENT.
KASHIRA!
Well.
PEOPLE HERE ARE REALLY GOOD AT KEEPING SECRETS.
THIS IS A GOOD PLACE TO HIDE.
THANK YOU SO MUCH!
That's great! Congratulations!
Cluck
Cluck

KOTA-ROU!
I'M TOTALLY AGAINST THIS!
TRASH LIKE THEM WHO TELL LIES WITH STRAIGHT FACES WILL NEVER STOP!
Stop joking around!
shock
HOW COULD A BOY WHO LOOKS JUST LIKE A "GOODY TWO-SHOES" DO SUCH THINGS?! LOOK AT HIM! HE'S PUNY AND ALL SKIN AND BONES!
Puny and skinny
You bastard!
Po
Un
IT'S IMPOS-SIBLE!
Gut
Tohui Jamal
THIS MORN-ING EH?
IF YOU CONTINUE TO ACT FOOLISHLY LIKE THIS
YOU'RE ONLY STILL ALIVE 'CAUSE YOU'RE LUCKY
IS THAT SO?
YOU'RE ONLY GOING TO BRING SHAME TO US

!?
THEN IF THE SITUATION'S LIKE THAT,
WHAT...?!
WHY DOES IT HAVE TO BE ME?! DON'T YOU KNOW HE'S A SAMURAI?!
WHY DON'T YOU BECOME ISSHIN'S CARETAKER?
OR DID KASHIRA FORGET HOW I THINK ABOUT THOSE BLASTED SAMURAI AS...
THAT'S WHY I MADE THAT DECISION.

THIS IS A GOOD OPPORTUNITY
LET GO OF THE BURDEN YOU'VE BEEN CARRYING
KOTAROU
DON'T LET YOURSELF BE DRAGGED DOWN BY THE PAST
...TCH.
bam
DON'T WORRY TOO MUCH ABOUT IT.
?!
KOTAROU-DONO!
THAT GUY WILL LISTEN TO EVERYTHING KASHIRA SAYS.
BUT...
HE'S JUST BEING HIS USUAL SELF HE'LL FORGET ALL ABOUT IT BY TOMORROW

"Why did you lie, Seiichirou?"

Waka.
They've let some-one like me who doesn't have any relationship with them stay but..."
"Hiding your real identity is to avoid bring-ing trouble to them."
"But..."
"Waka."
"Anyway!"
"please endure for now."

"Did you lie to us?"
TCH
DON'T CRY YOU FOOL!
FROM TOMORROW ONWARDS YOU'LL BE ONE OF THEM
step
step
Even so
But maybe
Kotarou dono's right about me being useless.
HAA
slide
GOOD MORNING!
?!

stare
Etiquette
IT'S BEEN HARD ON YOU FOR WAKING UP EARLY!
IT'S...
I'll work hard to get back their lost trust!
On the ground
FROM TODAY ONWARDS I'LL BE IN YOUR GUIDANCE!
SHUT UP! YOU'RE A BOTHER
Kick
Pain
Pain
I won't give up!
O! IT'S BREAK TIME!
Okay!

APPEAR
?!
YOU'VE WORKED HARD!
HERE'S TEA
AND SOME TREATS FOR YOU!
crumble crumble
annoyed
I DON'T WANT IT, YOU'RE A BOTHER.
HEY KOTAROU CAN YOU HELP OUT HERE FOR A WHILE?
YEAH
stand
annoyed

Koma-kichi!
YES?
SORRY ABOUT THIS, BUT CAN YOU BRING THIS BOTHER ALONG WITH YOU TO BUY SOMETHING?
step step
EH?!
Bother?!
NO, CAN'T DO IT! I STILL HAVE WORK TO DO!
I still have to send these weird blanks to the
Pett
Koma
menace
salute
I'm happy to oblige!
So you want to PAY back the 8 man you've stolen from me then?
Well then, lets be on our merry way!
sit
Punch
HEY YOU!

GINJI-SAN!
MAN...
YOU'RE SUCH A BASTARD ...
WILL IT BE ALL RIGHT? YOU'RE LEAVING HIM OUT OF YOUR SIGHT WHEN KASHIRA MADE HIM YOUR RESPONSIBILITY
THAT'S WHY I SENT KOMA WITH HIM.
I CAN'T HELP IT NOW, CAN I? HE'S OBSTRUCTING THE WORKFLOW HERE.
That bastard
Six
YOU'VE CHANGED YOUR OPINION ABOUT HIM THE MINUTE YOU LEARNED TH IT HE'S A SAMURAI, EH?
Shock

I WONDER WHO
WAS THE ONE WHO CARRIED THE UNCONSCIOUS ISSHIN BACK, LAID OUT THE FUTON FOR HIM, BROUGHT HIM PAJAMAS,
AND STAYED BY HIS SIDE, TAKING CARE OF HIM YESTERDAY EH?
Sigh.
It's me but do you have a problem with it?!
WOULD YOU STOP YOUR LOUD MONOLOGUE IN FRONT OF ME?!
Blush
I THINK HE IS WORKING HARD
WOULD YOU STOP HATING PEOPLE JUST BECAUSE OF THEIR POSITION?
KASHIRA SAID THIS BEFORE RIGHT?
I UNDERSTAND THIS.

I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT I SHOULD DO.
BUT ...
HON-ESTLY ...
I'M UT-TERLY AGITATED.
SERI-OUSLY...
"FACE"?
IT'S PAINFUL TO LOOK AT HIM
THAT GUY'S FACE.
WHY DID HE HAVE TO BE A SAMURAI?
WE'RE NOT ON A FOOL'S ERRAND, WHY DOESN'T HE JUST BUY THEM HIMSELF?
RIGHT?
SOME TOOTHPICKS, SAKE OIL AND CANDLES
LET ME SEE HERE
HM.

I GUESS I'M JUST AN ANNOYANCE.
Well!
Don't feel depressed! At least you're not being sent to the fields right?
Cheer up!
UGH!
slap slap
depress
...
You're right
WELL, THIS SITUATION DOESN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH EVERYBODY IN THE FIRST PLACE.
I'M USELESS ANYWAY
AH!
EVEN THOUGH I'M GIVEN THE PERMISSION TO WORK HERE AS AN EXCHANGE
YOU'RE REALLY TAKING THAT "SKINNY AND SKINNY" COMMENT TO HEART AREN'T YA?
stab
...Not really ...
Second time
YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT KOTAROU-SAN RIGHT?
THAT'S JUST A JOKE!

THAT GUY JUST HATES SAMURAIS IN GENERAL
HATE? WHY IS THAT?
WELL, HIS BELOVED YOUNGER BROTHER
GOT KILLED BY ONE YOU SEE.
WHAT'S WITH THAT FACE?
WELL
THAT'S 'CAUSE
YOU DON'T REALLY HAVE TO TAKE THE GUY'S WORDS TO HEART. JUST BE AT EASE.
BUT!
THAT'S THAT.
IT'S FINE.
ALL THE MORE THAT I'M THERE.

Kashira's decision reflects the others' opinions and decisions!
I'm really happy that I've made more friends
A "shitsuji" friend
*Pony
WHAT'S MOST IMPORTANT IS TO DO EVERYTHING WITH YOUR TRUE FEELINGS
"I'll work hard to get back their lost trust!"
The most important thing is...
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR A NORMAL PERSON TO KNOW HOW TO DO THINGS FROM THE START.
KOMAKICHI-DONO...
Even with such straightforward thinking...
... Being impatient brings more harm than good...
HM?

The true feelings of the heart...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
MM.
*Inrou = pouch
EH?
EH? THIS PART GOT A LITTLE SINGED?
It's only a little bit though.
AH! YOU'RE RIGHT! NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, THE NETSUKE* FROM THE INROU* TOO
AH!
*Netsuke = mini carvings stuck to an end of a string that's hanging from a pouch
That's right!
KOMAKICHI-DONO! THERE'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO HAVE YOUR ASSISTANCE WITH.
yo
u
gu
ys...

What time do you think it is right now?!
Are you stu-pid?!
WELL
Argh!
I'M NOT ASKING YOU HOW YOU DID IT! I'M SCOLDING YOU!
SHUT UP!
EH? WELL WE STARTED FROM THE FURTHEST
DO YOU NEED TO TAKE SUCH A LONG TIME JUST TO BUY SOME STUFF?!
ANYWAY LETS HAVE OUR MEAL I'M STARVED WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU GUYS
Yo-y!
BUT!
YOU'RE AT FAULT TOO FOR SENDING THEM ON THAT ASSIGNMENT
YOU CAN STOP RIGHT THERE NOW
GIN-NII!
GINJI-SAN!
AT LEAST THEY'RE SAFE AND SOUND RIGHT?
dizzy
Yay! Food
SA
SAVED

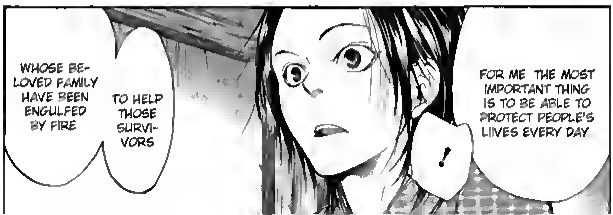
I'M...
EH?
dread
YOU OVER HERE
grab
?!
I'm going to be killed!
clac
clac
shock
I'LL DO IT NOW!
YES!
WHY ARE YOU DALLYING OVER THERE?! HURRY UP!
I'm really nervous
clank
...ONLY NEEDED ME TO HELP SERVE THE TABLE
I thought he brought me back here to hit me
? EH? EH?
Is this the cover?

EVEN THOUGH YOU'VE SAVED GINJI-SAN I ACCUSED YOU OF BEING A BUSYBODY
EH?

THE LIE YOU GUYS SAID MADE ME SO MAD THAT I WENT OVER-BOARD TOO
NO ABOUT THAT

SORRY ABOUT YESTERDAY

FUNDAMEN-TALLY WE DESTROY HOUSES TO PREVENT FIRE FROM SPREADING
clack
EH?
DO YOU KNOW WHAT'S THE JOB OF A HIKESHI*?
HEY...
I SELFISHLY TOOK MATTERS INTO MY OWN HAND AND...


WHOSE BE-LOVED FAMILY HAVE BEEN ENGULFED BY FIRE
TO HELP THOSE SURVI-VORS
!
FOR ME THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS TO BE ABLE TO PROTECT PEOPLE'S LIVES EVERY DAY

TO PREVENT THEM FROM BEING SEPARATED,
WE ACT AS SHIELDS TO COVER THEM FROM THE RAGING FLAMES
To bring them back
to the soft warm embrace of humans
instead of the strong, fierce inferno
WELL
EMBRACE YOURSELF FROM NOW ON.
EH?
I WON'T ALLOW YOU TO RECKLESSLY DO AS YOU PLEASE UNDER MY WATCH!
NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE, IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME!
IF YOU BEHAVE LIKE A SPOILT CHILD OR MAKE ANY MISTAKE, I'LL NOT HESITATE TO PUNISH YOU.
Yes!
OKAY
OUR TALK'S DONE
YES
AH!
FUSSY

MAYBE YOU CAN PUT THIS WITH THAT KIFUDA* FROM YESTERDAY.
A NETSUKE.
WHAT'S THAT?
?
HERE.
Extend
*Wooden talisman
AND YOU SAID IT'S A REALLY IMPORTANT POSSESSION OF YOURS
THE STRING'S REALLY OLD ALREADY
BUT I'D BE REALLY HAPPY IF YOU USE IT...
moved
He's so similar to him that I'm feeling perturbed...
Even his smile...
MAYBE IT'S NOT TO KOTAROU-DONO'S LIKING THOUGH
Why is that guy a samurai?

"LET GO OF THE PAST" EH?
His smile looks like my dead brother's.
Maybe it's about time...
AH
creak creak creak
It's gonna fall
Wait
up pushing
Geh!
WAH!
Stx: bam
THANK...
I guess Edo's a little too exciting for me.
This is what you get for eavesdropping at us!
smack
Why do you hate him, Oi-?
WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
WELL, I WAS WORRIED ABOUT SHIN-BOU YOU SEE
Chi-chiue...
WHAT!
You're flattening me!
UGH.. ORI-CHAN.. GET OFF...
Ugh!
SO SORRY

But..
HIKE-SHI..
Huh?
Eh?!
There're a lot of kind souls here...
PROTECTING ONE'S GIVEN "TRUE HEART"...?
Excuse me, do you have any spare wooden heart?
What's wrong with my?
Chichiue. Hahaue.
Starting from tomorrow
Ugh!
Isshin will do his best with a pure heart and pure thoughts.

Ch. 4 chapters 5
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Hi no Matoi
Girls' Generation
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KN
OCK
FOR THE PAST FEW DAYS,
I HAVE BEEN LIVING AS ONE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE TOWN'S HIKESHI
I'LL SOON BE TAUGHT THE WAYS OF HOW A HIKESHI REALLY WORKS, BUT
THERE YOU GO! PREPARATION'S DONE!
Chapter 3: Ladder's Compass

FATHER, MOTHER
YOUR SPECIAL TRAINING STARTS NOW!
I'M IN A PRECARIOUS SITUATION.

Chapter 3: Ladder's Compass

LISTEN CLOSELY THE TRICK HERE IS NOT TO LOOK DOWN JUST CLIMB UP IN ONE GO THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT!
DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?
AH
ERM
HMM?
I KNOW IT'S TOO LATE, BUT
YOU... YOU'VE MISUNDERSTOOD!
You've hit me already...
WHAT DID YOU SAY? DO YOU WANT TO GET BEATEN?!
Is...
Is it a must for me to do this?
WHAT?
BASH
Evacuating family
I THOUGHT THE FIREFIGHTERS DESTROY HOUSES TO PREVENT FIRES FROM SPREADING
PIERCE
SHUT UP, YOU STUPID AMATEUR!
Dismantling houses
CLIMBING UP THE LADDER IS THE BASIC OF BASICS!

IT'S BETTER FOR PEOPLE AS SKINNY AND PUNY AS YOU SINCE YOU CAN MOVE AROUND ON THE ROOFS EASILY.
Splashing water and kicking
Pushing tiles to the ground
BASICALLY, HIKESHI OFTEN WORK LIKE CONSTRUCTION WORKERS. THEY'RE VERY USED TO WORKING ON HIGH AREAS. BESIDES THAT, THEY ALSO UNDERSTAND THE STRUCTURE OF HOUSES VERY WELL.
ACTUALLY, MOST WORK IS DONE ABOVE GROUND - DESTROYING ROOF TILES, MAKING FOOT BANKS, AND TRANSPORTING WATER.
<TN: "MATOI: AN OBJECT TO NOTIFY PEOPLE OF FIRE ON/WITHIN A BUILDING.">
!
WHAT SHOULD I DO IF YOU'RE NOT WITHIN MY SIGHT?
FURTHERMORE, YOU WERE GIVEN TO ME AS MY RESPONSIBILITY
Easily
reached!
Grab
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT
WELL IT'S GOOD ENOUGH IF YOU CAN REACH MY SIDE.
THERE!
I WON'T ASK YOU TO GET INTO THE REAL WORK JUST WHEN YOU'RE ONLY STARTING.

slam
USE YOUR BODY TO REMEMBER, NOT YOUR HEAD!
EXPERIENCE WILL ENABLE YOU TO DO IT!
CL
AP
SO GET UP HERE ALREADY!
LOSE
!
BA-DUMP
BADUMP
I GUESS IT'S HIGHLY IMPOSSIBLE TO TALK MY WAY OUT OF THE SITUATION NOW
WHAT TO DO...
CLAP
HEY! HURRY UP!

I CAN'T STAND HIGH PLACES!
Please stop!
Stagger
What are you so afraid of? It's all right!
So hurry up and get up here, chibi!
Ha haha
"GYAAAA
Wha-wha-wha-wha-WHAT?!
THUD
THUD
Stagger
A A A
Hurry up and get here.
AH..!
UGH..!
5 minutes later
Did I go a little too over board?
Sorry, sorry Here it's fine now
AH..!
UGH..!
HEY!
Irritated
10 minutes
AH..!
UGH..!
Hachi-kun Hachi-kun
HOW LONG ARE YOU PLANNING TO HESITATE OVER THERE LIKE A CICADA?! ORINOSUKE! THROW THAT BLASTED CHIBI UP HERE NOW!
WAH!
I'LL DO IT! I'LL GO NOW!
PLEASE FORGIVE ME!
STEP
STEP
STEP
STEP
WHATEVER HAPPENS, HAPPENS!

You're doing fine! Just don't look down and get up here in one swoop!
Grin
YE-
YES!
STEP
HOW BRAVE...
Pant
Pant
STEP
He's such a surprising person
Ha! Haa...
Huh?
"Look?" "Down?"
Do~
DOWN?!!
ASSSS
BU-BU-BUT...
CLICK CLICK
BU~
THAT'S DANGEROUS! STOP MOVING SO MUCH, IDIOT!
WAH!
GRAB
GYAAAAAAAAH! SO, SO, SO, SO HIGH!

?
WHAT'S WRONG?
WHY ARE YOU SUDDENLY SO QUIET...?
HUH?
CLICK
CLICK
1ST
CLICK
CLICK
That's dangerous...
AH!
ARSONIST!!!
WHAT?!
WHO?!
Shock
?!
BAM
THUD
THAT GUY THERE!
AH!
HEY, YOU! STOP!

BANG
KYAH!
WAH!
STOP!
I TOLD YOU TO
Grab...
FELL
A SUCCESSFUL CAPTURE!
YES!
DEAD...
WAH! SOMEBODY JUST FAINTED!
Where did the roof tile come from?!
<TAE KU>
IT'S JUST A MISUNDER-STANDING!
HOW MANY TIMES MUST ARGH! I EXPLAIN THIS FOR YOU TO UNDER-STAND?!

ISN'T IT ILLEGAL TO HIT SOMEONE ON THE HEAD WITH A ROOF TILE?! NOW HURRY UP AND RELEASE ME, PLEASE!
YOU JERK!
YOU REAP WHAT YOU SOW!
YOU EVEN PREPARED THIS TO START A FIRE, SO YOU CAN'T DENY IT
THAT'S NOT A COMPUS-TIBLE!
BAM
BAM

STAN: JIHONTOIYA BOOKSTORE LIKING EDO PERIOD THAT PUBLISHED AND SOLD BOOKS AND SOME PAINTINGS.)

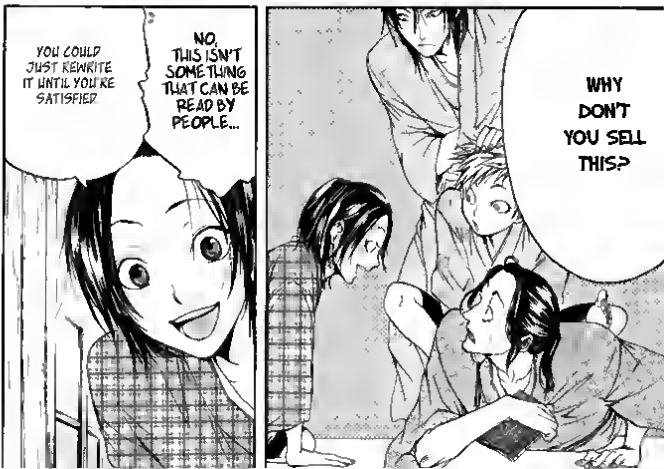
Yup. Porn books.
Gosh
They have a good stock
ISH
EVEN SO...
I know that place! Even though the bookstore's small, they have a vast array of books for sale!
WHAT'S THIS KOMA?
oh
YOU ACTUALLY READ BOOKS?
ISN'T THAT MORE LIKE A DRAFT THAN A MANUSCRIPT?
IT WAS REALLY STUPID OF YOU TO DROP THAT INTO THE RIVER
WHO SAID ANY-THING ABOUT DROPPING IT?
EVEN THOUGH WE DON'T HAVE A LOT, WE SELL REALLY INTERES-TING BOOKS AND HOT-BLOODEDLY SEARCH FOR AUTHORS TO WRITE THEM!
A MANUSCRIPT IS THE SOUL OF AN AUTHOR, AND IT'S ALSO OUR LIFELINE
I WOULDN'T DO SOMETHING AS IRRESPON-SIBLE AS THAT!

EH...? THEN...
.....
THE HEAD OF OUR BUSINESS RIVALS, SAKAE-YA, GOT SOME ROGUE TO DO IT.
!
I THINK THIS IS FAIRLY COMMON
THEY START TARGETING SHOPS WITH GOOD BUSINESS ASSAULTING THEM WHEN THE MANUSCRIPT IS COMPLETE AND DESTROYING IT.
THEN, WITHOUT THE AUTHOR KNOWING ANYTHING AT ALL, WE LOSE THEIR TRUST
THEY NEVER WRITE FOR US AGAIN,
AND THUS, THE AUTHOR GOES TO SAKAE-YA BECAUSE OF THE MONEY.
THAT'S HOW THEY START TO DOMINATE EVERY-THING...
.....
SO THEY USE MONEY TO BUY POPULAR AUTHORS, EH...?
THAT'S SO DESPIC-ABLE!

...Screaming the... name." Hmm? What's this?
It should be "to run."
...
Such a pitiful child.
THIS MANUSCRIPT WILL BE IN SHREDS BEFORE BEING READ BY OTHERS
"Screaming the name running through the earth just like thunder!
Hee~
Pat
You're really fluent! You're pretty clever aren't you?
Erm just like the moon...
?!
WAH!
NO! THIS WAS WRITTEN BY ME...
AH!
Y...YOU GUYS! WHO GAVE YOU GUYS PERMISSION TO READ THIS?!
SINCE WHEN?!
You dropped it
EXCUSE ME BUT IS THAT BOOK FOR SALE?

NO!!!
YOU'RE AN AUTHOR?!

TO-KUICHI-DONO!
!
YOU'RE AWE-SOME!
I'VE SEEN YOU IN A NEW LIGHT
NO, I'M NOT LIKE THAT! PLEASE STOP!
BUT IT'S REALLY GREAT! HEY, PLEASE LET ME READ IT!
THIS IS SOME-THING I WROTE FOR FUN!!!


YOU COULD JUST REWRITE IT UNTIL YOU'RE SATISFIED
NO, THIS ISN'T SOMETHING THAT CAN BE READ BY PEOPLE...
WHY DON'T YOU SELL THIS?

Wait?!
We'll protect you!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT IT
NO... BUT
IF SAKAEYA COMES TO INTERRUPT...
Squeeze
IT'S SUCH A FITY IF YOUR MANUSCRIPT CAN'T BE READ BY OTHERS!
!
SPARKLE
SPARKLE
Tokuichi-dono!
We're definitely able to so let's do it
THEN,
SHOULDN'T WE SETTLE THE PROBLEM HERE?
You're really clever Shinbo-san
That's an awesome idea. If he writes himself then he doesn't have to worry about authars leaving him!
I'M VERY MOTIVATED NOW!
THIS TURNED OUT TO BE A WEIRD SITUATION
I'LL DO MY BEST!

He knows my weakness...
...YES...

I'LL HELP YOU GET OVER YOUR FEAR OF HEIGHTS AND SPECIAL LADDER TRAINING.
I'LL TRAIN YOU HARD!

SL
It's still dark through...
MORNING! TIME TO WAKE UP FOR SPECIAL TRAINING!
...AND SO STARTING THE NEXT DAY, ISSHIN

TOKUICHI TOO
TOKUICHI

Made by Kotaro
UNDER KOTAROU'S GUIDANCE
BWAH
IT'S ONLY ONE STORY HIGH
STAND UP PROPERLY AND WALK!

GOSH! I CAN'T DO THIS!
I CAN'T DO THIS!
GET USED TO THE HEIGHT!
GOOD LUCK
I'LL LET YOU DOWN ONCE YOU COUNT TO ONE HUNDRED
UNDERWENT ALL KINDS OF TRAINING

SORRY TO TROUBLE YOU, BUT I...
PLEASE THE TWO OF YOU JUST ENJOY YOURSELVES
WE'RE HEADING TO THE THEATER NOW YOU WANT TO COME ALONG?
IT'S YOUR FAVORITE DRAMA...
...NO...
I WONDER WHAT TOKUICHI IS DOING... HE'S BEEN IN THERE FOR A LONG TIME
I THOUGHT HE WOULD BE REALLY DEPRESSED WHEN HE FAILED TO GET THE MANUSCRIPT, BUT...
SO WHAT IS HE WRITING THEN...?
<TAI' SAKAEYA, JIHONTOYA>
WHAT?
BENIYA'S SON IS ACTING LIKE HE'S WRITING A BOOK?!

IT WASN'T BAD
?
I TOOK A PEEK WHEN HE WASN'T AROUND

IT WON'T DO MUCH HARM TO MY STORE
SIGH
LET HIM DO AS HE LIKES
NO!

HMM...
IT WOULDN'T BE A BIG RISK IF IT WERE TO BE PUBLISHED. BUT IT COULD BE HARMFUL.

I'LL LET YOU HANDLE THIS
BE SURE TO PLAN SOME-THING

IT WAS THE RIGHT DECISION TO HAVE YOU INFILTRATE BENIYA.
WHAT DO YOU HAVE IN MIND?

SAKICHI
YES

PLE PLEASE FORGIVE ME!
I TOLD YOU NOT TO LOOK DOWN!
HOW MANY TIMES DO YOU WANT TO FALL DOWN?!
YOU STUPID SHITHEAD!
TO-KUICHI-DONO!
!
EXCUSE ME
Ah
I WAS REALLY FOCUSED ON WRITING THIS
You finished it really quick.
Tokuichi-dono you're really awe-some!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SO MODEST
Congra-tulations on finishing your manuscript!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH

THIS COMING FROM SOMEONE WHO ISN'T ABLE TO CLIMB A ROOF, DESPITE BEING TOLD IT'S NOT SCARY
Ah.
BUT I'M REALLY GRATEFUL TO YOU, ISSHIN-SAN
WITHOUT YOUR ENCOURAGEMENT, THE SHOP AND I WOULD HAVE NO FUTURE
No, not really. You're just exaggerating
THE FACT THAT I'M ABLE TO WRITE MY OWN STORY
AND PUBLISH MY OWN BOOK IS LIKE A DREAM
Then let's hurry up and submit this at the event
Give me
OKAY!
LIKE I'LL LET YOU DO IT!
Step

SO YOU FINALLY SHOW YOURSELF!
CRACK
AH!
CRACK
F W
ISH
AH!
Ste? Ste?
I'M HONORED THAT YOU REMEMBER ME, NII-SAN.
YOU GUYS!
THANKS FOR THE TREATMENT LAST TIME.
HUH?
THA THAT FACE! YOU'RE THAT KUGUMI BASTARD FROM LAST TIME!
I DON'T REMEMBER DEFORMING YOUR FACE THIS MUCH.
I WAS BORN LIKE THIS!
Oh.
DISREGARDED
AFTER KICKING SOMEBODY'S HEAD, YOU DARE TO FORGET ALL ABOUT IT?!
Oi
YOU KNOW HIM?
NOPE. DON'T KNOW HIM AT ALL.
NO..?
LIAR!
AH, SO THAT WAS YOU
YOU'RE WRONG!
DON'T SAY IT AS IF I'M A BIRD!
OH YOU'RE THE ONE WHO FLEW TO THE SKY
By Seima Akiyama

I'LL DROWN THE THREE OF YOU TOGETHER WITH THE BOOK IN THE RIVER!
CLAP
I REALLY HATE IT WHEN SOMEONE IGNORES MY PRESENCE!
EH?
STOP FOOLING AROUND!
WHY, YOU...!
FINISH THEM!
CRACK
GYAAA AA!
ROAR...
WHAT'S THAT? A FIGHT? IT'S GOOD TO BE YOUNG.
OH?
SIP
EH?

THAT PIG-HEAD'S GETTING HIMSELF INTO TROUBLESOME MATTERS AGAIN
SAYING "YOU'RE RIGHT"
SNAP
Is that all?
THAT FREELOADER SAKAEYA'S
THE ONE OVER THERE IS BENIYA'S SON...
AH
<TAN DANNA - POLITE WAY OF CALLING HIS CUSTOMER >
ISN'T THAT DANNA'S SQUAD'S MATOI BEARER?
YES YOU'RE RIGHT
SO THAT'S THE "WAKA-SAMA"?
I don't understand. Why Satetsu?
Thank you for your patronage
Bill, please.
DAMN THAT PEOPLE LIKE THAT NEED TO BE ENCOURAGED BY OTHERS
OH, YOU'RE LEAVING?
YEAH, TO SAKAEYA
YOU'RE NOT GOING OVER THERE?
AH, OLD MAN
YES?

WOULD YOU BELIEVE ME?
IF I TOLD YOU
THERE'S A PERSON IN THIS WORLD WHO CAN READ THE MOVEMENTS OF FIRE,
Just leave them be
Do we need to report this?
HE FINISHED THEM IN A BLINK OF AN EYE...
CLAP
CLA
HE... IS... STRONG...
HE...
UWAH!
EH ? WHERE'S TOKUICHI-DONO?
I THINK I SHOULD CALL THE DOCTOR FOR MY CONSCIENCE'S SAKE...
Um...

HEY YOU!
Grrr...
SHIT!
!
LET GO OF ME!
TOKUICHI-DONO!
NO!
S
LET GO!
!
SLAM
UTER
GYAH!
TO-KUICHI-DONO!
thack
YE YES!
HURRY UP AND GET THAT BACK!

pant
pant
!
WHERE DID TOKUICHI-DONO RUN OFF TO?
THAT'S WEIRD
pant
TOKUICHI-DONO?
Pop
TOKUICHI-DONO, SO YOU WERE OVER HERE!
IT'S REALLY HIGH, RIGHT?
!
?

NO.
IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT IF WE GET A LADDER...
YEAH
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO GET IT FROM THAT HEIGHT
NO IT'S FINE
THEN I'LL GO LOOK FOR KOMAKICHI-DONO
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE WITH MY BODY WEIGHT IF IT'S KOMAKICHI...
EVEN IF WE USE A LADDER TO CLIMB UP THERE,
I GUESS THIS IS KARMA

"If it's Komakichi..."
PIERCE
I'M SUCH A LOWLIFE FOR ONLY TRYING TO PROTECT MY OWN THINGS WITH SUCH VIGOR!
DON'T SAY THAT...
I WASTED OTHER PEOPLE'S MANUSCRIPTS!
clench
AFTER ALL, THIS ISN'T MY FIELD OF EXPERTISE
grab
JUST WAIT A MINUTE
LET'S JUST GIVE UP AND GO BACK
WAIT!
ISSHIN-SAN PLEASE STOP! I'M REALLY FINE
NO!
RUSH
!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING, IDIOT?! IT'S DANGEROUS!

DON'T SAY STUFF LIKE KARMA TOO!
THIS IS DEFINITELY WRONG
THIS IS SOMETHING YOU'VE POURED YOUR HEART OUT TO CREATE, RIGHT?!
THEN DON'T SAY SOMETHING AS FLIPPANT AS "IT'S FINE!"
THAT'S RIGHT I'VE ALREADY GIVEN UP BEFORE I EVEN ATTEMPT TO DO IT...
CAN'T I GIVE IT ALL I'VE GOT?!
SOMEONE WHO LOVES BOOKS SO MUCH
WILL NEVER EXPERIENCE KARMA!
IF THERE IS EVEN A GLIMPSE OF POSSIBILITY
THEN I'LL..
A LITTLE CLOSER..!
YES

TOKUICHI-DO-
YAY! I GOT IT!
AH...
GR
A-B
SN
AP
!!!
fall
ISSHIN-SAN!
CHIBI!
PEU
Sprint
THIS IS BAD!
CAN I REACH HIM...?
SHIT!

REACH...
I CAN'T
U-
UWOOOO-!
UGH
SL
ICHI
AM
!!!
SLIDE
SLIDE
SLIDE
SLIDE
SLIDE
AH!?
SHOCK
GLOMP
ISSUN-SAN!
THANK GOD!
YAAAAAAAA-
AH
AH, TOKUICHI-DONO, HE
..U...
CHIBI, ARE YOU OKAY? ARE YOUR BONES STILL INTACT?!
I THINK I'M OKAY

THANK YOU
CLENCH
THANK YOU SO MUCH
Wait!
No, don't worry I'm still alive.
IF YOU DIED BECAUSE OF ME...
I'M REALLY, REALLY SORRY!
Ohh, you're hurting me.
STILL SHOCKED

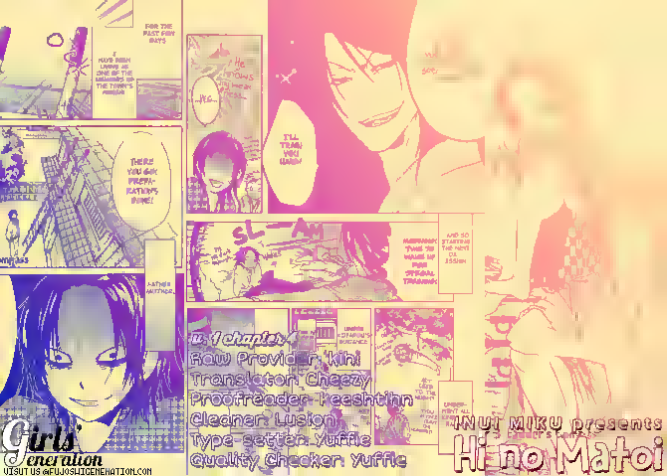
Ha,ha,ha.
Congratulations on getting over your fear of heights!
CLAP CLAP
IT'LL TAKE
TEN DAYS FOR ALL THE BRUISES ON MY BODY TO FULLY HEAL

Being able to hand in the manuscript without any problems and Sakaeya's business being suspended is really great!
Pops in
IS ISSHIN AWAKE YET?
KYAA!
KYAA!
AH!
AH, YOU'RE RIGHT. I'M SO GLAD.
Gin-nii!
HOW'S YOUR BODY FEELING?
BAM
I'M ALMOST RECOVERED
THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR
WHAT'S THAT?
OH, RIGHT. HERE YOU GO
YES!
AH, DON'T TELL ME TOKUICHI-DONO'S BOOK CAME OUT ALREADY?
Ah, no. This is...
WHAT?! IT TAKES UP TO TWO OR THREE YEARS JUST FOR A BOOK TO COME OUT?!
YEAH...
WELL, THERE'RE A LOT OF PROCESSES INVOLVED IN PUBLISHING ONE.

WHAT'S THIS? SO TODAY'S JUST THE FIRST STEP OF THE INITIAL PROCESS?!
HM HM HM.
THIS JOB NEEDS A LOT OF PATIENCE
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
THIS IS SO TROUBLE-SOME
SO, IT'S LIKE THAT.
EH?
ISSHIN-SAN, WILL YOU TAKE THIS?
PASS
THIS IS...!
YES.
THIS IS THE MANUSCRIPT THAT BROUGHT US SO MUCH TROUBLE.
I CAN'T ACCEPT SOMETHING AS IMPORTANT AS THIS
WHEN YOU WERE ENCOURAGING ME, YOU SAID THESE WORDS TO ME-
NO, PLEASE ACCEPT THIS.
"IT'S SUCH A PITY THAT YOUR MANUSCRIPT CAN'T BE READ BY OTHERS"
YOU HADN'T SAID THOSE WORDS TO ME. I'M SURE I WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GIVE IT MY BEST
!

HE GAVE ME SUCH A MARVELOUS GIFT
Thank you so much"
IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOU THAT I WAS ABLE TO GIVE LIFE TO THIS CHILD
Sheesh
THAT'S WHY...
But I really wanted to see Shinbou's coura-geous
feat!
I SEE
OUCH !!!
WHAT COURAGE? IF HE MISSED A STEP, HE'D BE AN IDIOT!
YOU'RE REALLY TROUBLE-SOME.
Hey, here's your food
Scark-
St
ab
I'm sorry
WHEN WE WERE GOING BACK, I HAD TO CARRY HIM ON MY BACK

When shinbou was sleeping, someone kept saying "that guy was able to climb a tree taller than the roofs." And in the end, he was so touched that his eyes were watering!
WHAT?!
Even if you say that,
Ah, Ah,
Heh
snuu
STOP JOKING AROUND, YOU BASTARD!
I WASN'T CRYING!
Huh? Nobody said it was you, Kirihara-san
wipe wipe
FATHER, MOTHER
A LOT OF THINGS HAPPENED THESE PAST FEW DAYS
MY AMOUNT OF PRECIOUS PEOPLE
So warm
HAS INCREASED BY ONE AGAIN
ACHOO
Sniff
Speaking of which how did Sakaeya end up in the ditch?
Who knows?
?


FOR THE PAST FOUR DAYS
I HAVE BEEN LIVING AS ONE OF THE SERVANTS OF THE TOWN'S MAYOR
THERE YOU GO, FILTHY-EATERS, DONE!
RATHER ANTIQUE...
He KNOWS!
I'LL TRAIN YOU AGAIN!
SL—AM
MEANWHILE, TIME TO WAKE UP FOR SPECIAL TRAINING
AND SO STARTING THE NEXT DA 155th!
Ch. 1 chapter
Raw Provider: Kihi
Translator: Cheezy
Proofreader: Keeshinn
Cleaner: Lusion
Type-setter: Yuffie
Quality Checker: Yuffie
MIKU MIKU presents
Hi no Matoi
Girls' Generation
JOSHIGENERATION.COM

Attention (please)

Amano Iwato (天の岩戸) - literary means 'heavenly rock cave.' In Japanese mythology (Shinto), Susanoo, Japanese God of the Sea, drove Amaterasu, Goddess of the Sun, into Amano Iwato, causing the world to be shrouded in darkness. To get her out of the cave, the other gods started partying outside. Lured by the noise, she got curious and went outside, only to be blinded by the mirror of Yata no Kagami. This led her to think that they were celebrating the arrival of a greater sun goddess, when in fact, it was her own reflection. Tajikarno then forced the cave to open and at once, the world was bathed in light. A holy seal was cast to keep Amaterasu from hiding. Rock fragments of the cave were scattered all over Japan and several shrines were built in honor of this legend, including Gifu's Gujou city' Dogakushi shrine.

Yata no Kagami (八咫鏡) – One of the Imperial Regalia of Japan. There are three in total. Other than the mirror Yata no Kagami, there's the sword Kusanagi no Tsurugi, and the jewel Yasakani no Magatama (Magatama is a type of curved bead). The locations of these items are not confirmed, and one of them may not even be original. Yata no Kagami represents wisdom or honesty and literarily means 'eight hand mirror.'

- GG

Chapter 4: The Strategist

miso, sake, soy sauce, and radi-shes...
leek,
Yup! That's every-thing!
BUT
Everybody's busy with annual spring-cleaning
I don't have time to buy groceries so can you please help
SNACK
HE COULD HAVE JUST CHASED ME OUT DISCRE-ETLY
IT'S REALLY HARD CARRYING EVERY-THING
UNSTABLE
UNSTABLE
SAKE
WELL, IT CAN'T BE HELPED THAT I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO WAS FREE
I SHOULD WORK HARDER AND FASTER TO BE OF SERVICE TO THEM.
KYA!
KYA!
DEVOTED

<T/N MIYAMAIRI IS A SHINTO CUSTOM LIKE A RITE OF PASSAGE. IT LITERALLY TRANSLATES TO "SHRINE VISITING">
OH, IT'S MIYAMAIRI
HOW NOSTALGIC
<T/N HAKAMAGI CEREMONY IS WHERE THE BOYS ARE FIT INTO A HAKAMA.>
EVEN THOUGH MY MOTHER WAS ANGRY FOR THE INOCENCY, HER EYES WERE CLEARLY GLOWING WITH PRIDE
DURING MY HAKAMAGI, MY FATHER WAS SO HAPPY HE CRIED

SLAM
Wah!
THUD
Ah!
Jumpin
Jumpin
THUD
knock
!
Ugh....
Sniff...
EVEN THOUGH HE LOOKS REALLY STUBBORN, HE'S A CRY-BABY.
OH MY, OH MY. SO SORRY, NII-SAN.
No... Really, it doesn't matter!
Really, it's fine. It was my fault for being absent-minded...
HMM?
Ah, the look!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ADVICE
AH.
YOUR WALLET
Speaking of which...
IT'LL BE A BIG PROBLEM IF YOU LOSE IT RIGHT?
IT'S REALLY DANGEROUS TO LEAVE IT AROUND SO KEEP IT ON YOU
THIS PERSON REEKS OF ALCOHOL!!!
AND IT'S ONLY THE AFTERNOON!
ANYWAY, THAT'S A LOT OF STUFF YOU'RE CARRYING.
SHALL I HELP YOU?
EH?!
AH
ERM.
Wave Wave
THANKS, BUT IT'S OKAY!!!!
NO NEED TO BE SHY IT'S FINE
I'M SERIOUS, I'M FINE!!!
NO, I'M NOT! I'M FINE!
OI, LET ME HELP

I'll keep walking and then slip away when the opportunity is right
Ah, let's do all kinds of whole things!
HEY
WHERE'S YOUR HOUSE?
YES!
Th-the direction towards Yotsuya.

<TN: YOTSUYA IS A NEIGHBORHOOD IN SHINJUKU TOKYO>

JUDGING BY THE THINGS YOU'VE BOUGHT, YOU WERE ASKED TO GET THEM, RIGHT?
IT'S PITIFUL BEING SO PUNY
THEN,
IT'S FASTER IF YOU TAKE THE ALLEY HERE
EH?
IF YOU REMEMBER THIS SHORTCUT HERE, IT'LL MAKE YOUR LIFE EASIER

THIS REALLY IS A SHORT-CUT
DON'T TELL ME THIS PERSON IS...
HMM, HOW SHOULD I SAY THIS
I THINK I'VE WALKED PAST HERE BEFORE...
AH,
JUMP
WHAT?
EH?
AH, THANK YOU VERY MUCH
YOU REALLY CAN'T JUDGE A PERSON'S CHARACTER BY THEIR APPEARANCE...
Really, thank you so much.
SNIFF SNIFF
Ah, I found a cat
He even helped carry some of my things
HE'S A REALLY KIND SOUL...!
forgive me for thinking you were a suspicious person!
Is anything wrong?
Eh... Er?
NO, BUT
YOU REALLY ARE A FLOWER CULTIVATED IN A GREEN-HOUSE
PFFT
You've been a great help!
You've helped me carry my things and accompanied me this far

EH?
Jingle
Jingle
Jingle
COINS?
GIVE ME YOUR HAND.
WHAT?
Ptfu!
THIS IS NII-SAN'S MONEY FROM YOUR WALLET
What?!
EVEN THOUGH YOU WERE QUITE CAUTIOUS IN THE BEGINNING...
HE REALLY STOLE EVERYTHING!
HEY, HEY DON'T TRUST PEOPLE SO EASILY.
Flick
...WHA...
BOY?
DON'T YOU KNOW THAT THERE AREN'T MANY GOOD PEOPLE IN THIS WORLD,

WHAT THE HELL'S WRONG WITH THIS GUY?!
LOOKS OUT
OH, CHIBI
YOU DIDN'T EVEN COME BACK WHEN THERE WAS A FIRE WHERE THE HELL DID YOU GO?
YOU'RE ALWAYS LOITERING OUTSIDE!
YOU! HOW LONG DO YOU PLAN ON TAKING A WALK?!
GRAB
SHAKE
YOU'RE BACK EARLY
UGH
AH
KOTA-KUN-DONO?
Whats'e this? Lil' Ko-chan feeling lonely?
I'M GONNA KICK YOUR ASS!
YOU REEK OF SAKE! YOU'RE DRINKING AGAIN!
EH?
WHAT?
So loud
Ko. Kota-kun-dono?
WHAT?
WHAT?
DON'T YOU KNOW WHO HE IS?
You know this person?

Ah, so nausea-ting...
Blegh
WELL, NICE MEETING YOU.
WHY ARE YOU SO FUCKING DRUNK?!
DON'T PUKE!!
GROUP...
GROUP LEADER?!
THIS GUY IS KU-GUMI'S GROUP LEADER
要
"要" IS READ AS "SHINO"

THESE ARE ALL THE ORDERS REGARDING FIREFIGHTING FROM THE HIGHER-UPS
STARTING THIS YEAR, YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE CITY FOR THE SECOND HALF OF THE YEAR
EVERYBODY MUST BE PREPARED FOR THE POSSIBILITY OF FIRE HAPPENING ALL THE TIME.
YES SIR!
WELL THEN, DISMISSED
SULK
YES!
AHA HAHAHA HA!
IT'S SO RARE TO HAVE SUCH GULLIBLE BOYS NOW
AFTER DROPPING YOUR YOU'RE WALLET AND THEN LYING HAVING ALL YOUR RIGHT? MONEY STOLEN, IT'S REALLY YOUR FAULT
YES, YOU'RE RIGHT
THIS IS SO SURPRISING!
WELL,
SNORE
in deep slumber
WHAT'S A GROUP LEADER ANYWAY?

AH.
EVEN NOW,
I'M STILL IGNORANT OF THE HIKESHI SYSTEM...
CT/N: KASHIRA = BOSS.
DIAGRAM
[KASHIRA] CHIEF INSPECTOR
[GROUP LEADER] (LITTLE KASHIRA)
LADDER CARRIER
MATOI CARRIER
Main powerhouse for firefighting. Has to climb up the roof often.
[PROP CARRIERS]
Very important equipment needed for firefighting!
(ORDINARY)
REST OF THE PEOPLE
RATHER THAN SAYING IT'S AN ORGANIZATION, IT'S MORE LIKE A HIERARCHY
TAKE KUMI, FOR EXAMPLE THE KASHIRA IS THE CHIEF INSPECTOR
FOLLOWED BY SHINO WHO GIVES INSTRUCTIONS ON THE SCENE. AND THEN THERE ARE THE MEMBERS IN CHARGE OF CARRYING THE EQUIPMENT.
ADDING IN THE ORDINARY MEMBERS, THERE'S ABOUT 80 PEOPLE, I GUESS
80 PEOPLE?!
SO THAT MEANS THE MATOI CARRIER IS SUPPOSED TO BE TASKED TO THE STAR OF THE GROUP. HE'S THE ONE WHO'S THE MOST CAPABLE, RIGHT?
AH.....
That's awesome.
IT'S USUALLY THE KASHIRA'S JOB TO GIVE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE SCENE, BUT SINCE OUR KASHIRA'S LEGS ARE BAD,
SHINO'S LEFT WITH THE TASK INSTEAD.
AND IF HE ISN'T AROUND THEN IT'S UP TO THE LANDLORD.

RUN
SO WHY IS IT KOTAROU-DONO?
No ill intentions at all
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?!
After-noon!
Aa-aa-aa...
ISSHIN! SOME-ONE'S HERE, SO PLEASE GO TAKE A LOOK.
OKAY
BUT
WHETHER IT'S THE MATOI CARRIER
OR THE GROUP LEADER, IT SHOULD BE GIVEN ACCORDING TO ONE'S ABILITY
HE'S RIGHT
YOU STILL CAN'T LET IT GO, CAN YOU?
Pfft
IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER
KOTA
I'VE SAID THIS MANY TIMES, RIGHT?

NO MATTER WHETHER IT'S YOU, SHINO, OR EVEN ME
IT'S ALL ABOUT PRACTICALITY AFTER ALL
RAPE-SEED OIL, SESAME OIL, AND CAMELLIA OIL
YES, THAT'S ALL. THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THE EFFORT.
IS THIS ALL THAT YOU NEED?
THANK YOU FOR YOUR FATIGUE.
YES.

I SEE
AH, I ONLY MOVED HERE LAST MONTH
Ah, no.
You just look really familiar, that's all.
Sorry about that
?
YES?
STARE
ERM I'M THE OIL SELLER UNOYA
Ah!
Oh, I'm I-
YOUNG PEOPLE SURE DO LOVE UNNECESSARY CHATTER
!
SHOCK
GROUP LEADER!
YOU'RE REALLY TALKATIVE TODAY
UNOSUKE

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN?
YOU STILL NEED TO SEND GOODS, RIGHT?
BETTER HURRY UP AND DO IT BEFORE IT GETS DARK.
...Yeah.
YOU'RE IN HIDING NOW, RIGHT?
YES?
Bq—thump
IF YOU TALK TOO MUCH, YOU'LL HAVE ASSASSINS AFTER YOUR HIDE.
EVEN THOUGH IT'S GOOD TO MAKE FRIENDS AND WIDEN YOUR CONNECTIONS,

EH? ERM, WHAT DO YOU MEA-
UGH.
"UGH"?

GYAAA
UGGHH
THIS MAN IS THE WORST!
TCH!
WHAT THE HELL JUST HAP PENED?
RUN RUN

I FEEL LIKE PUKING ALL OF A SUDDEN.
EH?!

I SEE. SO HE'S REALLY HERE.
YEAH.
BUT I HAVEN'T GOTTEN HIS NAME YET.

IS THAT SO...?
I can buy medicine for my mother with this!
THE INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCARLET-COLORED HAIR STRAP
IS MORE THAN ENOUGH
Thank you so much!
Thu-
HERE'S YOUR REWARD
DROP
Eh?!
But-
THAT'S
REALLY GOOD.
Ah, over there, over there! I found Shibuki!
POUT
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
CLACK
CLACK
OI! BRING THOSE THINGS THERE!
Chatter
Chatter

It's the brat's lover
Katsuragi-san bullying you again?
What happened to you?
Sis's
It's nothing really. Everybody's talking about you pouting so I thought of coming here to look at you
WOW, YOUR FACE IS AS ROUND AS A BALLOON
CAN I HELP YOU?
HUH?
CRACK
SHI-NO'S FAST EH?
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, I DON'T REALLY KNOW.
EH?
And that atrocious attitude to make fun of people. I wonder what he went through to turn out like that
Everybody's so busy every day, and he still has the nerve to go out strolling as if he has nothing to do, only to come back and sleep in his room.
Shinkiro, your aura's spilling out
Ama no Iwato status.
Idling at home
Do not enter
Is the cradle of the street
He's a mystery girl! Looks like it, right?
ONE THING I DO KNOW IS THAT HE'S JUST LIKE A LONE WOLF WHO DOESN'T NEED ANYBODY BY HIS SIDE.
Are you sure this is right?
I ONLY HEARD THAT THE KASHIKA BROUGHT HIM BACK FROM SOME PLACE.
EVEN GIN-NII, WHO HAS BEEN HERE THE LONGEST, KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT HIS ORIGINS.

Shock
EDO'S A PLACE FOR PEOPLE WITH SOME FORM OF BACKGROUND TO STAY
YOU'RE THE SAME TOO, RIGHT?
EVERYBODY'S ABLE TO DISCRIMINATE RIGHT FROM WRONG!
THAT
Drunk
ANYWAY,
OUR KASHIRA REALLY TRUSTS THAT GUY
Ah, that's right.
It's impossible for him to be on the streets idling!
BOTH OF YOU...
AH... REGARDING THAT
Gulp
Menacing...
WHY ARE YOU HAVING YOUR IDLE CHAT NOW? DO YOU REALLY WANT TO DIE?
Kotarou-dono!
AT SUCH A BUSY TIME...
SMACK
JOLT

GYAH!
BWAH!
GO DO YOUR WORK!
WAH!
SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE REALLY HATED
WHAT DID YOU DO?
NO-THING.
ANYTHING WRONG?
SIGH
Smile
ONE PERSON PLAYING A MOTHER'S ROLE IS MORE THAN ENOUGH
WELL I ONLY TEASED HIM A LITTLE
OUR GROUP LEADER IS REALLY RELIABLE
Thanks for the compliment
CHNG
EVEN WITH GOOD SEEDS AND FERTILE SOIL, IF LEFT UNTOUCHED THE LAND WILL NEVER BEAR ANY GOOD HARVEST

CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
!
HEY CHIBIS
HURRY UP AND GET READY
FIRE!
Eh?!
Wha-what should we do?
SHINO?!
You've been there all this time?

OO-
VIOUS-
LY!
SO
IF WE'RE
NOT THE
FIRST GROUP
TO ARRIVE,
WE'LL BE
HUMILIATED.
THE
SMOKE'S
CLOSEST
TO US.
HEY, BOY
TAKE THIS
AH!
BUT
THIS IS
YOURS.
IT'S A
LITTLE
LATE.
HERE.
!

ROGER!
THIS IS YOUR FIRST BATTLE.
DO YOUR BEST
...!
THE FIRE STARTED AROUND ICHIGAYA HONMURA AVENUE
THE WIND IS COMING FROM THE NORTH.
WE'VE JUST RECEIVED INTEL FROM OUR GROUP'S HEADQUARTERS STATING THAT THE FIRE IS SPREADING RAPIDLY TOWARDS THE SURROUNDING WOODEN HOUSING AREA

LISTEN CLOSELY
ALL OF YOU ARE BEARING THE GOOD NAME OF "KU-GUMI."
EVEN IF YOUR FACES ARE BURNT TO BLACK CHARCOAL,
YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO TARNISH THE NAME OF THE GROUP.
START!
Waa!
SHOCK
Trrrr

KU-GUMI HEADING THIS WAY! MOVE OUT OF THE WAY!!!
IT'S THE KU-GUMI!
A SLIVER OF HOPE APPEARS IN THEIR EYES
ONCE THEY SEE THE HIKE-SHI,
EVEN THOUGH EVERYBODY'S RUNNING FOR THEIR LIVES,
WAH!
SO OVER-WHELM-ING
BA-THUMP
MY BODY
BA-THUMP
BA-THUMP
BEFORE THIS I WAS ONLY AN OUTSIDER, SO I DIDN'T REALIZE
OKAY! STOP!
IS BURNING AS HOT AS FLAMES..

Clack
EH?!
Clack
SPIN
KOTARO, HURRY UP AND GET ON THE ROOF!
YES.
WIND DIRECTION HAS CHANGED TO THE NORTHEAST. THE FIRE IS BURNING EVEN MORE RAPIDLY.
YES.
Gah!
Constructed
shouldn't we build a foothold first?!
Before the matoi's brought up,
Erm, will that be all right?
EH?
OF COURSE,
IT'LL BE BEFORE THAT
WE'LL MAKE ONE.
YEAH! CLEAR THE WAY!

YOU'LL SERIOUSLY INJURE YOURSELF IF YOU GET KNOCKED OVER!
Brushes
WAOO
SH
JUMP
Toh!
ORI-CHAN!
DASH
HERE I GO!
BAM
HMPH!

flips
SH
mm!!!
8
GOOD!
THE REST OF YOU, DESTROY HALF OF THOSE PILLARS ON THE RIGHT SIDE
ROGER!
I'VE GOT IT!
AND

OUR GROUP LEADER IS EVEN MORE CAPABLE YOU KNOW?
YE-
YES!
KOMA DID WELL, RIGHT?
HALF THE PILLARS ON THE RIGHT?
WHAT?!
FROM THE AMOUNTS OF TILES TO THE DETERIORATION DATE OF THE PILLARS EVERYTHING IS AT THE BACK OF HIS MIND
HERE IN EDO
THAT FELLOW ACTUALLY MEMORIZED THE STRUCTURE OF EVERY SINGLE HOUSE
THAT GUY KNOWS THE IMPORTANCE OF KNOWLEDGE
IT'S THE THIRD CORNER FROM HERE!
WRONG!
"WHERE TO START DISMANTLING FOR QUICKER RESULTS"
BY KNOWING JUST THAT, YOU CAN SAVE MORE LIVES

EVEN IF SOMEONE IS A GREAT STRATEGIST THEY STILL HAVE TO WORK HARD TO SAVE LIVES
SHINO IS THAT TYPE OF GUY
SO UNBELIE-VABLE
IT'S LIKE LIGHTS ARE FLICKERING IN FRONT OF MY EYES
Step
THE BEAUTY OF FIRE-WORKS
IT'S LIKE THE DIS-PERSION OF LIGHT PARTI-CLES
YES IT'S JUST LIKE
THERE ARE SO MANY AWESOME PEOPLE AROUND
OH?

BLOOMING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT SKY
YOU MANAGED TO CLIMB UP HERE,
CHIBI
THE ROOF TILES FEEL HOT
<THE FIFTH UNIT.>
五番
EVEN IF THE MATOI BARRIER'S LIFE IS IN DANGER,
HE IS NOT ALLOWED TO ABAN-DON HIS POST
THE PLACE CLO-SEST TO THE FIRE
IN THE MIDST OF THE SCOR-CHING HEAT,
KOTAROU-DONO

DIGNIFIED
AND PROUD
The hikeshi are
THE COOL-EST!
ROGER!
HEY! THOSE ROOF TILES ARE COMING OFF! GO FETCH SOME WATER!
WA
WA
OF COURSE!
GO FOR IT!
Kuuuuu it's fun being in Edo!

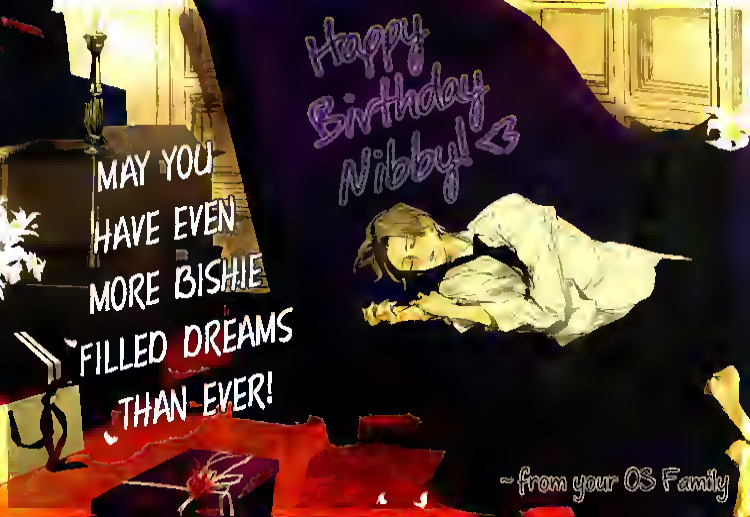
H
WAAA
WAH
SO MUCH GOT BURNT IN THE END
Hmm...
ABOUT FOUR OR FIVE STREETS GOT BURNT DOWN
CRUMBLE
SO MANY?!

GROUP LEADER!
A LOT OF PLACES ARE STILL SMOKING.
IT'S NOT TIME FOR YOU TO RELAX JUST YET
OH, NOW I KNOW
IT'S DUE TO THE WIND THAT THE SITUATION NOT SO BAD.
YES, I UNDERSTAND!
YOU SHOULDN'T LET DOWN YOUR GUARD, BOY.
BEFORE THE FIRE S COMPLETELY PUT OUT
...
TSK
GIN WHAT DID YOU DO?
Smoke?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
...
"I UNDERSTAND"?
That's smoke?
Run Run Run
AHH Help
ISN'T THAT A GOOD REPLY?
SO THIS IS THE SOURCE OF THE FIRE?
ABOUT HERE.
THE FIRE STARTED IN THIS AREA
AH...

SPLASH
...DONE!
HMM
...
YES!
I THINK YOU CAN COME UP NOW
HEY, CHIBI!
I GUESS THIS IS THE LAST OF IT
this is astonishing
From here
Speaking of which,
YES
HAVE YOU FINISHED CHECKING THERE?
It's just like a mountain of burnt charcoal
SKEP
CRACK
SLIP
!
HMM.
THEN, COME ON UP HERE

Wo bb/e
UGH!
WAH!
CHI...!
BE... BE CARE...
!
FUSH
...
...Eh...?
Wo bb/e
No bb/e
BE CARE-FUL
Single-handed ly
Ah...
Thank you
I'm really grate-ful
Seriously what the hell are you doing, idiot!
Sorry
GR
AB

YES ?
PLEASE WAIT A MINUTE
EH?
YOU'RE FROM A SAMURAI CLAN?
I AM ISAKA MAGOBEE.
I HAVE A COUPLE OF QUESTIONS I NEED YOUR HELP WITH.


Happy Birthday Nibby! <3
MAY YOU HAVE EVEN MORE BISHIE FILLED DREAMS THAN EVER!
~ from your OS Family